

Message Text

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60

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 PM-07 L-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

SPC-03 NIC-01 OMB-01 SAJ-01 CU-04 DRC-01 NSCE-00 /102 W

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R 070130Z DEC 73

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1102

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1561

1. WORD MAKING THE ROUNDS IN PEKING DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES IS THAT CHINESE ARE UNHAPPY WITH WAY THEIR ARCHEOLOGICAL EXHIBITION HAS BEEN DISPLAYED IN LONDON (PARTICULARLY OVER REMOVAL OF REFERENCES IN DISPLAY TO REVOLUTIONARY ASPECTS OF CHINESE HISTORY), WITH RESULT THAT CHINESE MAY EXERCISE A MUCH TIGHTER CONTROL OVER ORGANIZATION OF EXHIBITION IN CANADA. MEMBER OF CANADIAN EMBASSY REFERRED TO THIS LATTER POSSIBILITY IN CONVERSATION WITH USLO OFFICER.

2. IN FACT, FOREIGN RESIDENT OF PEKING WHO HAS JUST RETURNED FROM LONDON HAD PERSONAL IMPRESSION THAT EXHIBITION WAS DISAPPOINTING.

LIGHTING TECHNIQUES, SUCH AS SPOT LIGHTS AND DARKENED BACKGROUNDS, SERVED TO EMPHASIZE INTRINSIC VALUE OF CERTAIN ITEMS, E.G. JADE BODY SUIT, BUT AT SAME TIME DIMINISHED HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF THESE ITEMS. HEAVY COMMERCIALIZATION OF EXHIBITION, INCLUDING SALE OF CHINESE CURIOS OUTSIDE EXHIBITION HALL DOORS, ALSO DETRACTED FROM EXHIBITION'S HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL VALUE. IN THIS OBSERVER'S OPINION, BEST FEATURE OF EXHIBITION WAS CATALOGUE WHICH PROVIDED PHOTOGRAPHS OF ITEMS IN STRAIGHT AND UNDRAMATIC MANNER.

3. IN ANTICIPATION OF IMPENDING USLO NEGOTIATIONS WITH CHINESE
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ON VISIT OF ARCHEOLOGICAL EXHIBITION TO US, WE WOULD APPRECIATE

KNOWING WHETHER DEPARTMENT OR OTHER ADDRESSEES HAVE HEARD SIMILAR
COMMENTS.
BRUCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Executive Order: GS
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